



NCLB Making a Difference in Oregon

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Oregon to more than \$1.4 billion – 51% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$137.1 million – \$58.3 million over 2001 levels – to help Oregon's neediest children.
- Oregon has received \$26.8 million in reading grants to help schools and districts improve children's reading achievement through scientifically proven methods of instruction since 2002. President Bush's proposed budget includes an additional \$11.1 million for Oregon. In total, over six years, Oregon is set to receive approximately \$48.4 million in Reading First funds.
- "One out of every eight Oregon schools was rated exceptional this year, the highest proportion to get the top grade since the state first issued report cards five years ago. Statewide, 130 schools were graded exceptional. In addition, the state's high school dropout rate dipped below 4.4 percent – the lowest ever recorded in the state." (*OregonLive.com*, 1/29/04)
- "Primary students at David Hill Elementary School get double the reading instruction this year. A Reading First grant lets kindergarten through third graders spend 90 minutes each school day learning and practicing reading skills. Much of the three-year grant is funding an on-site reading coach, said principal Ann Doyle. 'Having a specialist in reading on campus is a godsend,' Doyle said. The grant allowed the school to purchase materials and it helps train teachers to use them, two pieces Doyle called essential to good teaching. 'It's improved and changed some instruction for kids,' Doyle said. 'It's exciting to see the teachers excited and it's exciting to see the gains that the kids are making.'" (*Hillsboro Argus*, 1/29/04)
- "Oregon schools once fell into three vague categories: the bad schools, the fine schools, and the great schools where most of the wealthier kids seem to go. Asking for specifics about student achievement was like yelling down an empty hallway, hearing your questions echo without learning anything new. Those days are over. Today people know more about their K-12 public schools than they ever have, thanks to the strict reporting requirements of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*. They can get a detailed snapshot of their local school and learn whether the odds of getting a good education are getting better or worse." (*The Oregonian*, 8/15/04)
- "As an estimated 600,000 Oregon students head to school this week, they have a record number of choices. Some school districts are opening doors for students who want to attend school outside their neighborhood. And the federal *No Child Left Behind* law is forcing some schools . . . to give students priority and a free bus ride to a higher-performing school." (*The Oregonian*, 9/5/04)